



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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Dr. Paul S. Galtsoff, leading shellfish biologist of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and an internationally known authority in his field, will visit the Ipswich-Newburyport area of the Massachusetts coast this week to inspect the extent of the current decline of the clam fishery and to discuss with local authorities the best method of restoring the depleted clam beds.

Dr. Galtsoff's survey will be conducted principally within the boundaries of the Parker River National Wildlife Refuge, which includes valuable clam flats in the Plum Island tidal area. However, his findings will have applications in the entire Ipswich-Newburyport section, as well as in other New England centers of clam production, according to Albert M. Day, Director of the Service.

Although several thousand acres in the Parker River area have been purchased during recent years by the Government for a waterfowl refuge, the clam fisheries within the refuge continue to be administered by the local authorities in the traditional New England manner.

The scarcity of clams which has become apparent along much of the northern New England coast this year is imperiling an industry that is more than 200 years old and is causing a loss of revenue to the towns, Mr. Day said. By conducting a survey on the clam flats of the Parker River Refuge, the Fish and Wildlife Service hopes to discover ways in which the local governments can increase the production of clams.

The soft clam industry in both Maine and Massachusetts, centers of this fishery, is now suffering from a scarcity of clams brought about by excessive digging over a long period of years, according to Mr. Day.

During his survey, Dr. Galtsoff will observe conditions on the clam flats to determine the degree of depletion and how productive the flats might be made under proper conditions. He will discuss the situation with clammers and confer with local officials.

Dr. Galtsoff has been in charge of biological investigations of shellfish for the Fish and Wildlife Service and the former Bureau of Fisheries for the past 20 years. He was recently detailed to the Navy as its principal biological observer during the atomic bomb tests at Bikini.

Besides carrying on scientific studies of clams, oysters, and other shellfish in every coastal state, Dr. Galtsoff has on several occasions been detailed to similar investigations outside the United States. When a fatal blight struck the sponge beds of the West Indies in 1939, the British Government requested that Dr. Galtsoff be sent to the islands to study the situation and assist British scientists in its correction.

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